

REMARKS

In the Office action dated November 16, 2005, the examiner indicated that claims 2, 5, 21, 22, and 26 included allowable subject matter. Independent claims 1, 23, and 32 have been amended to include subject matter that is the same as or similar to that of claims 2, 25, and 5 respectively. For example, the method of claim 1 now has the self-contained thermophoretic source provided under a reticle carrier, which was previously recited in claim 2. The method of amended claim 23 is similar to that of claim 25 except that a temperature gradient is created for a reticle within a shipping box rather than a plurality of reticles within a shipping box. Similarly, the method of claim 32 now provides a reticle in an anti-static bag and a shipping container, which is similar to providing a self-contained thermophoretic source and a reticle within a container as indicated in dependent claim 5. Because independent claims 1, 23, and 32 have been amended to include allowable subject matter, these claims and the claims dependent thereon are now in condition for allowance.

New claim 34 recites providing a self-contained thermophoretic source external to a carrier, the thermophoretic source positioned with respect to the carrier to protect a reticle (on the carrier) from particle contamination. In this claim, the thermophoretic source is positioned in such a way that the reticle, which is on a carrier, is protected from particle contamination even though the source is external to the carrier. Because the examiner concedes that none of the cited references disclose using the structures together, there is no suggestion, motivation, or teaching within the references to do so. For this reason, new claim 34 and claims dependent thereon are patentable over the cited art.

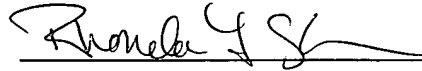
CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

The commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.1019US).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 15, 2006

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rhonda L. Sheldon", is written over a horizontal line.

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